delegating to federal agencies the "lead" on certain remedial actions. The draft contains no reference to existing model cleanup language already developed by EPA for the Defense and Energy departments. EPA has objected vigorously to certain portions of the NRT draft, in part because the draft reopens issues the agency had regarded as settled. The NRT is composed of federal agencies.
#1973 (18 pages)

**HAZARD RANKING.** EPA draft of hazard ranking system (HRS) used to assess potential Superfund sites would give more weight to "actual" than "potential" exposure. The draft sets "health based benchmarks" as the basis for weighing potential versus actual exposure using Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant levels (MCL) when established, or on cancer risks of 10 (-4) to 10 (-7) when no MCL exists. Based on the benchmarks, the draft HRS divides the exposed population into four groups: drinking water contaminated at levels greater than the MCL; drinking water contaminated at concentrations ranging from the MCL to 1/1,000 of that level; contamination significantly above background but less than 1/1,000 of the proposed or final MCL; drinking water not contaminated, but groundwater or surface water supplies contaminated or carrying the potential to become contaminated. The draft weights level 1 exposure 100 times more than level 3 and level 2 exposure 10 times more than level 3. Levels 3 and 4 are weighted equally. The model also adds a direct-contact pathway to the existing groundwater, surface water and air exposure routes.
#1974 (142 pages)

**CRYSTAL CITY SITE.** Letter by the Texas Water Commission supporting EPA's record of decision for the Crystal City Airport Superfund site in Crystal City, TX. The letter was sent in reaction to an Office of Technology Assessment report criticizing EPA for its interpretation and implementation of Superfund. The Crystal City site was used as an example of EPA's tilt toward cost consideration at the expense of the permanent, protective remediations Superfund requires. The commission, however, "believes that incineration [a proposed but rejected remedy] is an inappropriate technology for this site because of the concentrations of arsenic in the soil." The risk assessment for this site demonstrated that the "highest potential risk to human health at the site is from direct contact with the arsenic-laden soils." Arsenic could not be treated by incineration, they say.
#1978 (2 pages)

### Underground Tanks

**TANK TECHNICAL STANDARDS.** Advance copy of EPA final rule, *Technical Standards and Corrective Action Requirements for Owners and Operators of Underground Storage Tanks*, describes program scope; design, construction, installation and notification; general operating requirements; release detection; release reporting, investigation and confirmation; response and corrective action for UST systems containing petroleum or hazardous substances; and out-of-service systems and closure. The rule provides a timetable for phase-in of release detection equipment.
#1993 (51 pages)

**TANK STANDARDS.** Advance copy of *Federal Register* notice contains preamble to final rule and final rule on state program approval for EPA's underground storage tank program differs from an April 17, 1988 proposal in more frequent — annual — tank testing, less frequent monitoring, phase-in of release detection over five years at existing tanks and more stringent release detection for pressurized piping systems. The rule generally sets forth tank construction, design and closure standards. #1994 (232 pages)

### Pesticides

**PESTICIDES IN GROUNDWATER.** Study by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group of pesticides in groundwater concludes that at least 73 different pesticides have been found in groundwater of 34 states. The majority of detections come from testing of drinking water wells, U.S. PIRG says: at least 25 of the 73 detected are possible carcinogens, 18 can cause birth defects and 14 can cause "genetic damage." Still, "EPA is moving slowly in several directions, such as: their proposed pesticides in groundwater strategy, regulations for pesticide use and they are currently conducting the first national survey of pesticides in groundwater," U.S. PIRG says.
#1995 (18 pages)



## CALENDAR

### AIR

**Combustion and indoor air - conference.** Three-day conference Sept. 26-29 at Niagara Falls, NY, on *Combustion Processes and the Quality of the Indoor Environment*. Sponsored by the Air Pollution Control Association. Registration information: (412-232-3444)

### WATER

**Aquatic food and cancer - conference.** *Chemically-contaminated Aquatic Food Resources and Human Cancer Risk* conference will be Sept. 29-30 at Research Triangle Park, NC. Sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Contact: Martha Taylor, NIEHS MD-A2-03, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.